



Division of Wal«Mart Stores, Inc.
702 S.W. 8th Street
Bentonville, AR 72716-0580

July 11, 2006

Docket Clerk, Marketing Order Administration Branch
Fruit and Vegetable Programs, AMS
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 0237
Washington, DC 20250-0237

RE: Ugly Ripe Tomatoes

I would like to take the opportunity to offer my support for the proposed rules change to the federal marketing order that would exempt Ugly Ripe Tomatoes from the shape restriction that currently exists for shipping tomatoes out of the state of Florida between October and June.

I feel this is the appropriate action for a couple of reasons:

The first is that it's been our experience that consumers are interested in purchasing this product on a year round basis. Providing consumers with those choices are important, and this exemption will allow retailers to offer this chose year round.

The second reason is that we also feel it's good for the state of Florida to be able to give consumers the opportunity to add to their choices to purchase other products produced in that state. And we feel that it in no way would compromise existing product that is currently being offered. The Ugly Ripe Tomato is a compliment to existing product, not a deterrent.

We encourage AMS to implement their proposed rule change and allow the Ugly Ripe Tomato to be exempt from the shape restriction, and allow this product to be shipped out of state on a year round basis.

Sincerely,

Bruce T. Peterson Jr.
Senior Vice President / General Merchandise Manager
Perishable Food